

From: Gordon Haverland
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 12:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I suspect you are getting a lot of feedback from non-US citizens, as this proposed settlement does effect people outside the United States. I am a Canadian.

I've read a lot about various peoples opinions of the proposed settlement, both learned and popular. I tend to agree that the proposed settlement will be ineffective. I can also see the point where structural remedies may not work either.

I believe that Microsoft has amply demonstrated over the years, that it is never happy having a partial share of any market. It has run roughshod over numerous businesses and industries, all in a quest to "own" the market. At present it has 90+% of the PC operating system market and probably 90+% of the "office suite" market. It has a major portion of the business networking market (services offered by NT to business LANs). It has entered the information market by forming a partnership with NBC, the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) market, the home consumer game market. It seeks to enter the music market and the Internet services (.NET) market. And those are just the markets that come to my mind, there may be more. Even with "just" those markets, if Microsoft follows past practice and grows to effectively "own" all of those markets; are there any governments strong enough to control their actions any more? I don't think so. I think the effort has to be made here and now to effectively rein in this behavior of Microsoft.

I think there are two things that need to be done. Microsoft has made a LOT of money by bullying companies. Someone has proposed numbers, but I think if we said something on the order of \$100 billion (10^{11}) US dollars, we would be close. I think Microsoft should be fined that much money; to demonstrate to all that it should not be allowed to keep the proceeds acquired by abusing a fair market. Also, I think a definite limit should be placed on Microsoft (and others) as to just how large a market share they are allowed to acquire in a market which has (or had) competitors. Being an engineer/scientist at heart, I'll pick $\exp(-1)$ (approximately 37 percent) as a limiting fraction, but I can even see arguments for allowing more than 50%, where I would suggest $\exp(-0.5)$ (approximately 61%) as an appropriate limit.

Thank you for your time.
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